



Unshakable Certainty

Discovering Your Identity in Christ

TERRY WARDLE

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WHY IDENTITY MATTERS

:: Lecture One ::

A personal bridge too far

Defining Identity

“

Identity is the foundation upon which individual uniqueness rests and it secures that which satisfies the deepest longings of an individual's life. The ground of individual identity, whether rock solid or shifting sand, impacts personal self-esteem and self-worth, and directly influences the questions of purpose and significance in a person's quest for meaningful existence.

Identity integrity must be linked to essential qualities that are secure, and as a Christian, eternal. Many followers of Christ, myself included, have been lured away from the realities that, in Christ, make us unique and significant, to identify with that which will, in the long run, spoil and fade, often right before our eyes. Illusive characteristics are touted in our culture as the gold standard for uniqueness and significance, though in fact are dead weight that will ultimately bring us down and wear us out.

”

A single statement can keep a person in identity insecurity.

The question of identity makes a great difference in:

- Relationships
- Responses in life
- How a person invests his or her life

It impacts:

- Health
- Emotional stability
- Psychological resilience

This discussion makes all the difference regarding spiritual matters.

- Christian maturity
- Relationship with God
- Empowerment of the Holy Spirit
- Security as a Christian
- Evil supernaturalism
- Awakening, abiding, anointing, authority, action

Are any of the previous matters important to you? If so, then identity integrity and the awakening of the true self are important to you!

This discussion matters!

“

“The awareness of being a child of God tends to stabilize the ego and results in new courage, fearlessness, and power. I have seen it happen again and again.”

“When I was a youngster, this was drilled into me by my grandmother. The idea was given to her by a certain slave minister who, on occasion, held secret religious meetings with his fellow slaves. How everything in me quivered with the pulsing tremor of raw energy, when, in her recital, she would come to the triumphant climax of the minister; ‘You – you are not n-----s. You – you are not slaves. You are God`s children!’ This established for them the ground of personal dignity, so that a profound sense of personal worth could absorb the fear reaction . . . This individual now feels that he counts, that he belongs. He senses the confirmation of his roots, and even death becomes a little thing.”

HOWARD THURMAN

JESUS & THE DISINHERITED (page 50)

”

Does identity matter?

“

“The core of the analysis of Jesus is that man is a child of God, the God of life that sustains all of nature and guarantees all the intricacies of the life process itself. Jesus suggests that it is quite unreasonable to assume that God, whose creative activity is expressed even in such details as the hairs of a man`s head, would exclude from his concern the life, the vital spirit, of the man himself. This idea – that god is mindful of the individual – is of tremendous import in dealing with fear as a disease.”

“There is something more to be said about the inner equipment growing out of the great affirmation of Jesus that a man is a child of God. If a man`s ego has been stabilized, resulting in a sure grounding of his sense of personal worth and dignity, then he is in a position to appraise his own intrinsic powers, gifts, talents, and abilities.”

“When men look into his face (Jesus), they see etched the glory of their own possibilities, and their hearts whisper, ‘Thank you and thank God!’”

HOWARD THURMAN
JESUS & THE DISINHERITED

”

An email from Dan McKinnon

“

“Well it is when our eyes are filled with His beauty and our hearts are occupied with Him. In the measure in which this is true of us we shall recognize the correlative truth that His great heart is occupied with us.”

JAMES HUDSON TAYLOR
UNION & COMMUNION

”

Identity and the True Self Not Only Matter, They Matter Critically

It is about **self-definition**:

- Constant
 - Nothing can separate you
- Compromised

It is about **self-worth**:

- Dignity and respect
- Inadequacy and shame

This discussion is about **how you perceive yourself in relationship to others**:

- Inclusion
- Exclusion

This discussion is related directly to **how your deepest longings are met**:

- Inheritance
- Performance

This discussion is about **where you invest**.

- Inward, Outward, Upward . . . Forward
- Power, prestige, possessions

It impacts **how you see others**.

- Made in God's image and of such value that he crossed a universe to save
- Competition and comparison
 - Less than
 - More than

This discussion focuses on **stability**.

- On the Rock of Matthew 7:24-27
- On the sand

This discussion is ultimately about **vision**.

- The convictions of vocation
- The chaos of conformity

And fundamentally this discussion is about **how we approach God**.

- Relational
- Transactional

And so, we come back to the beginning.

Does discussing identity matter?

You get to decide!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

LECTURE ONE: WHY IDENTITY MATTERS

1. Where did you sense the Holy Spirit engaging with you during the past presentation?
2. What was your most significant take-away?
3. Did you ever experience a personal “bridge too far” and, if so, what impact did that have upon you?
4. In what ways have you worked to measure up to the expectations of others?
5. What difference does it make that your identity is child of God?
6. What would you like to discuss more from the material in the last presentation?

UNCOUPLING BEHAVIOR FROM IDENTITY SECURITY

:: Lecture Two ::

Understanding and integrating the grace-saturated Gospel of the Kingdom does not come easily to God's people.

- We live in a world that demands performance
- The church is often in bondage to a religious spirit and the burden of legalism and performance
- The Gospel of the Kingdom sounds too good to be true.

Understanding and integrating a grace saturated lifestyle are a work of the Holy Spirit

- We have received the Spirit ***so that we may understand*** what God has freely given us! 1 Corinthians 2:12
- What are the implications of “freely given”? What does that mean and not mean?

In 1 Corinthians, Paul is addressing very serious issues of behavior contrary to Kingdom values. These behaviors are divisive and destructive.

Yet notice how he starts this letter. He begins with the lavishness of God upon His children, highlighting aspects of what has been freely given them.

Paul uncouples!

Remember, he is stating the following to people who have embraced behaviors contrary to Kingdom values!

Freely given:

vs. 2 Set apart

Connected with Christians everywhere

vs. 3 Grace and peace

vs. 5 Enriched in every way

Speech

Knowledge

vs. 7 Spiritual gifts

vs. 8 Held firm to the end

Blameless of that day

vs. 30 Righteousness

Holiness

Redemption

vs. 31 Boast in Christ!

Remember, Paul says this is true of the Corinthian believers even though they have need of repentance and returning to who they are in Christ!!!

In Ephesians, Paul states clearly that salvation (wholeness and healing) are given by grace, received through faith . . . not works . . . even when behavior is out of line.

The Scandal of Grace

Romans 9:30-32

- Faith in grace brings righteousness
- Works, striving after the law, does not bring righteousness

Romans 10:4

- Christ has fulfilled the law bringing righteousness, freely given, to all who believe.

Romans 11:5,6

- Remnant chosen by grace
- If grace . . . then not works
- If works . . . then not grace

God's grace in Christ is freely given, lavish in its expanse, scandalous in its generosity.

- Grace has given our identity and the security that comes from being a child of God.
- Freely given!!!!

Now We Embrace the Call of Romans 12

A Grace Saturated Worshipful Response

vs. 1: In view of this mercy . . .

- Take a good, long, Spirit-enlightened look at the lavishness of this grace that calls you son, daughter, heir.

What words, phrases best describe what you see?

- Let your entire life be a worshipful response to the extravagance of grace.
- This is not a prerequisite or requirement
- It is your worshipful response to what has been freely given you in Christ!

vs.2: The Holy Spirit will renew your mind to show you what a grace-saturated worshipful lifestyle looks like.

- Why be kind? It is a worshipful response to a grace saturated life!
- Why forgive? It is a worshipful response to a grace saturated life!
- Why turn away from what is immoral, impure, aggressive, and domineering? It is a worshipful response!
- Why pick up trash on the side of the road, be generous to a person in need, serve the needy and broken?

vs.1: This is pleasing to your Father. It is not a condition of grace, but instead the worshipful sacrifice grace initiates.

vs. 9-21: Paul now gives examples of practical holiness. He is illustrating what he has introduced in vs.1.

- Love sincerely
- Cling to what is good
- Be devoted to one another
- Honor others above yourself
- Serve the Lord with fervor
- Be joyful in hope
- Be patient in affliction
- Be faithful in prayer
- Share
- Bless
- Rejoice with those who rejoice
- Mourn with those who mourn
- Live in harmony

- Be humble
- Do the right thing
- Live at peace with people
- Do not take revenge

These are not rules to be obeyed as pre-requisites to blessing, but powerful examples of how a grace-saturated life translates into worship-filled practical holiness.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten our hearts to ALL that has been freely given in Christ . . .

May the Holy Spirit empower a grace saturated worship that manifests through a sacrificial life of practical holiness.

Freely Given . . . Freely Give

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

LECTURE TWO: UNCOUPLING BEHAVIOR FROM IDENTITY SECURITY

1. Where did you sense the Holy Spirit engaging with you during the past presentation?
2. What was your most significant take away?
3. Why do we need the Holy Spirit's help to understand the expanse of God's grace?
4. What does freely given mean to you?
5. What is the difference between a worshipful lifestyle being a response to grace versus a requirement of blessings?
6. What would you like to discuss from the material in the last presentation?

THE GRACE OF UNION

:: Lecture Three ::

Let's return to the basic, ancient premise, "To know God I must know myself, to know myself I must know God."

Stepping stone or stumbling block? You decide.

- **Your view of God** and how you perceive his attitude and approach to you
 - Jesus as the radiance of God
 - The gospel as genuinely good news
 - The freedoms of Isaiah 61

- **Your view of self** and the degree of self-acceptance or self-contempt you extend to yourself.
 - Extending grace to yourself as Christ does
 - Repenting of self-contempt
 - Replacing judgment with forgiveness

Why did Jesus cross the Universe and become one of us?

Luke 3:7 through 4:13

The question of union:

- Union with God through Christ
- John 10:30 – The Father and I are one
- Galatians 2:20 – It is not I who live but Christ who lives in me

- Union with God is what redemption is all about
 - Not morality, or knowledge, or holiness, or service.
 - These are by-products of union

2 Peter 1:3-4

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life...

Given...great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature...”

“

“Through union with Christ I share in Christ’s intimacy unto the Father. What is his by nature as Son becomes ours through grace by adoption.”

ANDREW PURVIS

”

- Union with God, through Christ, has three dimensions: a look at the prodigal
 - Relationship
 - Child – identity
 - Core Longings met in Him
 - Fellowship
 - The possibility of ongoing growth in intimacy through the Spirit
 - The possibility of ongoing increase in abiding, anointing, authority
 - Stewardship
 - Luke 15
 - Luke 19

The story of Christ recorded in Luke 3 and 4 begins with his baptism in the Jordan River.

- Jesus had done nothing at this point, as far as scripture records
- Jesus chose to be numbered among the sinners
- He has an episodic experience that secured his identity
 - Loved
 - Chosen
 - Empowered
- The foundation of this episodic experience was related to union.
- Immediately the Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness where he was tempted by the evil one.

Key lessons from the wilderness

- This is fundamentally about identity security
- Satan's strategy is best expressed as what appear to be reasonable "invitations" as opposed to "evil" temptations
- Satan, in order to get Jesus to question identity, aims at core longings!

Henri Nouwen *“In the Name of Jesus”*

- *The temptation to be relevant*
- *The temptation to be powerful*
- *The temptation to be spectacular*

“

“Satan’s lures are aimed at human longing.”

ALICIA CHOLE

”

What is the nature of a lure?

- It must look like the real thing
- It must move like the real thing
- It needs to wiggle
- It needs to shine

Hungry fish and animals (and people) grow desperate and are susceptible

When the servant becomes the master

You say you will never do that again. But then . . .

When identity insecurity is tapped, people either explode or implode.

“

When believers do not understand union, experience identity insecurity, and live with core longing deficits, they often are attracted to Satan's lures and end up biting down hard! When they do, they are had.

”

“

Core Longings:

- Love
- Belonging
- Security
- Significance
- Purpose
- Understanding

ANNE HALLEY

”

While core longings were originally intended to draw us closer to God, the fall caused us to seek satisfaction from sources other than the Lord.

Core longings became, as St. Ignatius called them, disordered affections. I have referred in my writing to these as wounded desire.

Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

“

While Satan's lures (invitations) are aimed at core longings, his goal is always to break our confidence in the grace of union with God.

”

His strategy is to get us to question our identity security by aiming at core longing needs.

This is why God insists in Ezekiel 14 that we deal with idols of the heart and wicked stumbling blocks.

Ezekiel 14

- Idols of the heart
- Wicked stumbling blocks

There is a great darkness that leads to brokenness and death that comes when what we believe to be stepping stones are actually stumbling blocks.

- Performance
- Prestige
- Possessions
- Power
- Competition
- Comparison

God does nothing without cause

The strategy of the evil one is to tempt us to choose against God to satisfy desire.

Consider Paul when, referring to his Pharisaic past, he said, "But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. (Philippians 3:7). Note the word "gains."

What idol of the heart is the Lord challenging in you?

What do you believe to be stepping stones that are in truth stumbling blocks?

What is the Lord asking of you?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

LECTURE THREE: THE GRACE OF UNION

1. Where did you sense the Holy Spirit engaging with you during the past presentation?
2. What was your most significant take away?
3. Reflect upon a time when recently you imploded or exploded. How does that relate to identity security?
4. What are the three dimensions of union and what difference do they make in your life?
5. What “lure” have you been susceptible to in your own wilderness journey?
6. What would you like to discuss in group from the material in the last presentation?

TWO TABLES

:: Lecture Four ::

Self-definition

“

“Self-definition is far more important to effective leadership than expertise.”

EDWIN FREIDMAN

”

Self-definition questions:

- Who am I?
- What distinguishes me?
- Why am I here?
- Where did I come from?
- What is my purpose?
- Where am I going?

Identity determines if you get a place at the table.

What is promised at that table?

Love

Security

Significance

Belonging

Purpose

Understanding

All people are deeply shaped by the pursuit of these core longings

“

How we pursue these core longings impacts many things in life, but fundamentally the nature of this pursuit **determines the difference between surviving and thriving.**

”

If you could review the history of the choices you have made, two things would soon emerge.

- You will see what you did to pursue the satisfaction of your core longings or kill the pain of core longing deficits.
- You will touch the fact that this pursuit was directly linked to your identity attachments, be they secure or insecure.

A Tale of Two Tables: *The Table the World Sets*

1. Having a seat is based upon identity
2. On that table is that which can touch core longings
3. However while the fruit placed there has some appeal, it provides no nourishment and sustained satisfaction
4. The message to all who move toward that table is “In yourself you are not enough and if “this” is all you bring you will not experience love, security, belonging, significance, purpose, and understanding.”
5. “You must measure up”
6. The degree to which you measure up is the degree to which you receive
7. The values honored at this table are power, prestige, and possessions (Rohr)
8. You bring those to the table to the degree to which you perform and you please
9. There is zero security at this table
 - a. It demands performance, not inheritance
 - b. It demands transaction, not relationship
10. Your seat must be earned and it can be lost

11. The chronic emotional toll from striving for a place at this table includes:

- a. Anxiety
- b. Avoidance
- c. Aggression
- d. Desolation

12. If you keep striving for a place at this table it will cost you everything and leave you with nothing.

13. The “invitation’ (temptation) to invest here always begins in the wilderness and the initial response is satisfaction, but our very soul has been the price.

14. Desolation

Placing a cross and bible on that table does not make it Christian!

Enemies of the Cross!

A Tale of Two Tables: *The Table set by the Lord*

1. Lectio Divina Psalm 23

- a. Safety

- b. Sufficiency

- c. Surrender

A table in the “even though”

2. The Father’s Blessing

- a. Galatians 4
 - i. Identity

 - ii. Infilling

 - iii. Inheritance

3. When is grace amazing? When it is given in extreme to this who have been hostile and disrespectful to the extreme (de Silva)

4. Jackie Grant and the “Theology of Somebody-ness”

5. The table of the Lord is lavish

- a. John 3:1 - You are called children of God. And that is what you are!

6. The table of the Lord is filled with all we need to experience deep love, security, belonging, significance, purpose, and understanding

7. Our place at the table is given purely because we are his children
 - a. The Grace of Union
 - i. Relationship
 1. Child
 2. Core longings met in the Father
 - ii. Fellowship
 1. Ever **growing**
 2. Ever **becoming**
 - iii. Stewardship
 1. Kingdom values
 2. Kingdom virtues

8. The designation child of God (The Grace of Union) gets you your place at the table ... no more, no less.

9. Our sitting at this chair cost him everything
 - a. Kenosis
 - i. harpagmon
 - b. The wilderness
 - c. The cross

10. Jesus' seat at the Father's side in intercession is what continually secures your place at this table

11. This place at the table, based on identity, invites fellowship.

a. The Trinity by Rublev

12. You come to the table with nothing except faith in union secured for you in Christ

a. Lay down possession

b. Lay down prestige

c. Lay down power

d. Surrender performance

e. Relinquish pleasing

13. You cannot secure your place there. To even try negates the work of Christ

14. You do not lose it because of weakness

All heaven knows you are the Father's child!

What results?

Jesus in John 13

Rest and Peace

Moving toward this table demands surrender and relinquishment, or better said detachment!

- What have I attached to other than him?
- Where am I investing in the table of this world?

The time has come to lay it all down and draw close at the table of the Lord.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

LECTURE FOUR: TWO TABLES

1. Where did you sense the Holy Spirit engaging with you during the past presentation?
2. What was your most significant take away?
3. Prior to coming to this seminar, how would you have defined your identity?
4. Where do you invest in the table of the world and what impact does that have upon you?
5. How would you describe the table of the Lord to a new Christian struggling with performance?
6. What does Paul mean by “enemy of the cross”?

SELF-DEFINITION & THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

:: Lecture Five ::

This Topic

- This is **not** about something we simply must **know**
- This is **not** about something we need to **do**
- This **is** about something we need to **experience** over and over in our life and ministry.

The text which forms the basis of this concern is Ephesians 6:10

“

Be Strong in the Lord and the Strength of His Might

”

Note that this is not Paul stating one truth in two different ways.

This is about two fundamental truths that we must experience deep within our inner lives.

Emphasis is placed on the fact that these need to be experienced

- The brain is an experience dependent organ ... Mary Gordon
- The brain is shaped by emotion laden experiences ... Siegel
- What fires together wires together ... Hebb

- Concepts alone will never rewire the brain ... Siegel
- Epiginosko

And so we must “know” two things

- **Be Strong in the Lord**
- **In the Strength of His Might**

We Must Pay Attention to Context

This is a Mighty Battle

- World: Values and priorities
- Flesh: Weaknesses and cravings
- Evil One: Strategies and tactics

Strong in the Lord

For many, becoming a Christian is fundamentally about:

- Beliefs
- Behavior
- Service
- Compliance

Growth and maturity are then often measured by:

- Religious obligations
- Rites of passage
- Rules
- Rituals

Practical theology can be marked by

- Jesus Plus
- Holiness as sin management

Paul in Galatians would not only say this is wrong, but it is in fact dead wrong.

The lavish generosity of Christ

“

Christian leaders cannot simply be persons who have well informed opinions about the burning issues of our time. Their leadership must be rooted in the permanent, intimate relationships with the incarnate word, Jesus, and they need to find there the source for their words, advice and guidance...leaders have to learn to listen again and again to the voice of love and to find there the wisdom and courage to address whatever issue presents itself.

HENRI NOUWEN

”

“

“Little Child, for you Jesus Christ has come, he has fought, he has suffered. For you he entered the shadow of Gethsemane and the horror of Calvary. For you he uttered the cry, ‘It is finished.’ For you he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and there intercedes – for you, little child, even though you do not know it. But in this way the word of the Gospel becomes true. ‘We love him, because he first loved us.’ ”

FRENCH REFORMED LITURGY OF INFANT BAPTISM

”

Notice the “for us” statements and their relationship to identity

“For me to live is Christ”

It means that we have been touched by the lavish, extravagant, scandalous love of Jesus Christ.

- Inclusion
- Identity
- Intimacy

The ultimate goal of salvation is not forgiveness, but the grace of union with the Lord

IN CHRIST (Consolation => Con-sol-ation => “with the sun”	APART FROM CHRIST (Desolation => De-sol-ation => “apart from the sun”
<p>(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ I am Yours and You are mine ☞ I am a Child of God (IDENTITY) 	<p>(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ I don’t know who I am ☞ I don’t know whose I am
<p>(2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ I am ENOUGH ☞ Adam and Eve were “naked and unashamed” – they felt no need to hide themselves 	<p>(2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ I am NOT enough! ☞ I feel naked and ashamed, so I do what I can to hide myself from the unwelcome gaze and judgment of others
<p>(3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ My deepest LONGINGS are met as I am in You and You are in me, “Relationship” Core longings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Belonging o Purpose o Love o Understanding o Safety / Security o Significance 	<p>(3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ My deepest LONGINGS are twisted into evil EVIL DESIRES that lead to greater DISCONNECTION because I look to satisfy these desires INDEPENDENT OF GOD Core longings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Belonging o Purpose o Love o Understanding o Safety / Security o Significance

<p>(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ This CONNECTION / ABIDING “in Christ” will breathe life into the development of the “unique me” ☞ “Abiding” means “dwelling continuously” not merely “visiting occasionally” “fellowship” 	<p>(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ This DISCONNECTION infiltrates / compromises / brings brokenness to the entire developmental process of the “unique me” ☞ The disconnection increases because we do not abide (continuously)
<p>(5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ INFORMS / TRANSFORMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vocation ○ Vision ○ Values ○ Connections ○ Boundaries ☞ Night and day, the Trinity is working to shape you into the image of Christ 	<p>(5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Since we are disconnected from Christ, we try to CONFORM ourselves rather than BE TRANSFORMED by the Holy Spirit => we descend into deeper levels of DEFORMATION in our <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vocation ○ Vision ○ Values ○ Connections ○ Boundaries
<p>(6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ “SO THAT” I will bless others <i>out of</i> these blessings I have received in Christ ☞ The blessing I have for others is a GIFT 	<p>(6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ “SO THAT” I will bless only in places where I get a blessing in return; I will bless only those who will bless me in return; I will bless only to the degree to which I am blessed in return. ☞ The blessing I have for another is a COMMODITY

ALL OF THIS is true of you through the grace of union Jesus has secured for you: relationship and fellowship.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

LECTURE FIVE: SELF-DEFINITION & THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

1. Where did you sense the Holy Spirit engaging with you during the past presentation?
2. What was your most significant take away?
3. What does “be strong in the Lord” mean to you?
4. Have you ever been caught in “Jesus Plus “theology? What impact did that have upon you?
5. Review the “In Christ” list? What feelings arise as you review this list?
6. What would you like to discuss from the material in the last presentation?

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF SELF-DEFINITION

:: Lecture Six ::

Building Block #1: Identity

- Identity gives us our place at the table
- Identity tells us we are enough
- Never place your identity in anything you can lose

Where Do Many Christian's Place Their Identity?

Child of God:

- ✓ Loved
- ✓ Chosen
- ✓ Empowered

Identity and Core Longings:

- Identity and Core Longings are Deeply Connected
- Core Longing Deficits, When Touched Lead to Reactions
- Performance and Pleasing to Gain Identity are About Pathology, not Theology

Five crises that flow from identity insecurity:

-

-

-

-

-

Building Block #2: Vocation

- Summoned to the heart of the Father
- Summoned to share in revelation and reconciliation
- Returning to first love
- Episodic time travel to our original “yes”

“

Rebuild

Renew

Restore

ISAIAH 61:4

”

Five vocation killers:

•

•

•

•

•

Building Block #3: Vision

- What is God's vision for you?
 - ✓ Spiritually
 - ✓ Psychologically
 - ✓ Relationally
 - ✓ Emotionally
- What is God's vision for your family?
- What is His vision for your next generations?
- People invest in vision more than need
- We need need vision for the "then"
- We need vision in the now

Zechariah 8:23

Five vision killers:

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Building Block #4: Values

- Values are nothing less than non-negotiable commitments essential to being the person God created you to be.
- Values are not “how” statements, but principles worthy of our deepest investments.
- Values identify what is valuable to us.
- The absence of stated values in life is in itself a statement of what is valuable to us.

Values

- Are not statements of faith
- Are not statements of theology
- Are not virtues

Sample Values:

- Personal well-being
- Healthy family life
- Life-long learning
- Gift-based ministry
- Decentralized leadership

Values are acted upon through specific goals.

Five value killers:

-
-
-
-
-

Building Block #5: Connections

- Paul and the body metaphor
- “Where two or three”
- Spiritual directors
- Intercessors
- Non-dual relationships/fellow travelers
- The social brain... “embodied and relational”

“

Much Christian leadership is exercised by people who do not know how to develop healthy, intimate relationships and have opted for power and control instead.

HENRI NOUWEN

”

Five connection killers:

-

-

-

-

-

Building Block #6: Boundaries

- Boundaries are necessary to well-being
- Boundaries enable us to take risks
- Boundaries foster responsibility
- Boundaries identify where I end and you begin

The Ranch Metaphor

- The healthy ranch
- The just love me ranch
- The stay out ranch
- The fix me ranch
- The no one is home ranch
- The you tell me ranch

Concentrating on the gate! Who gets in and who stays out?

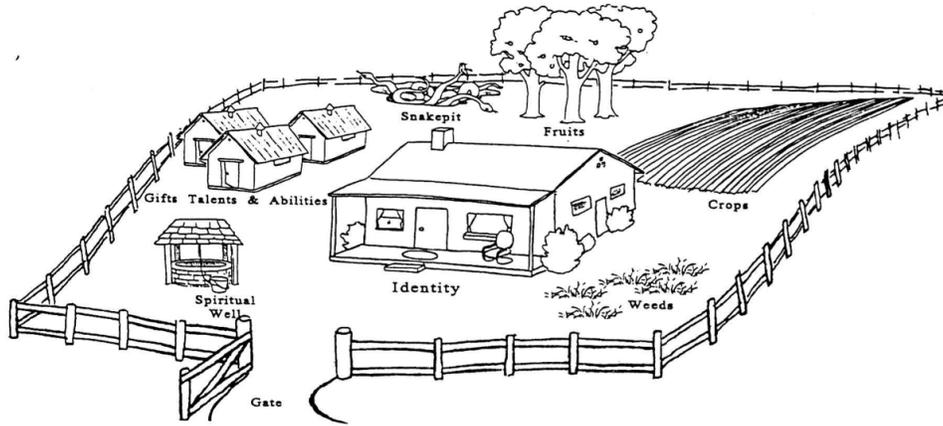
8 who stay at the gate:

- Dominate
- Manipulate
- Triangulate
- Instigate
- Suffocate
- Humiliate
- Violate
- Interrogate

8 who visit beyond the gate:

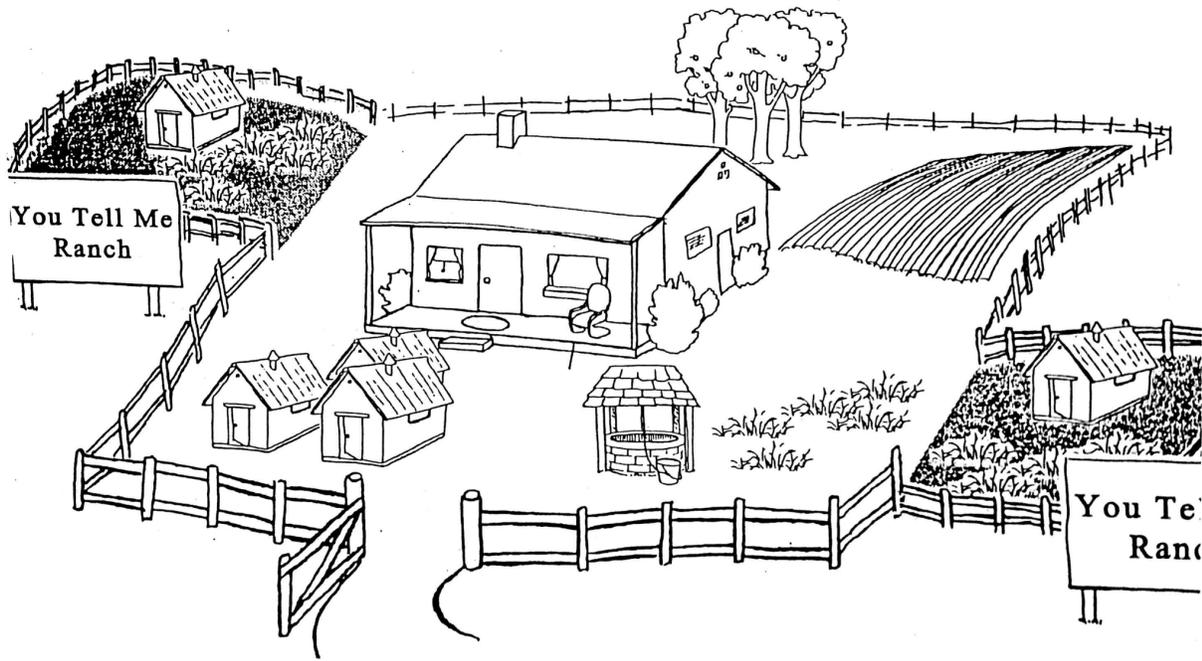
- Worshipful
- Respectful
- Grace-full
- Resourceful
- Care-full
- Insightful
- Faithful
- Grateful

The following illustration provides a visual representation of the ranch concept. Notice the particular parts of the ranch.

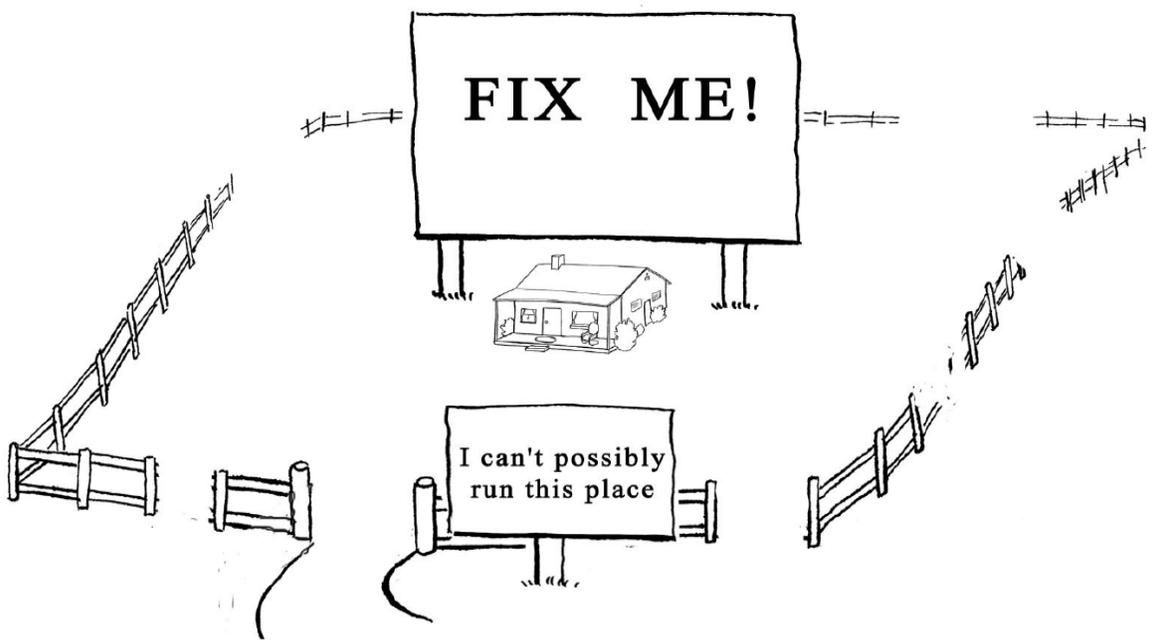


The "No One is Home" Ranch

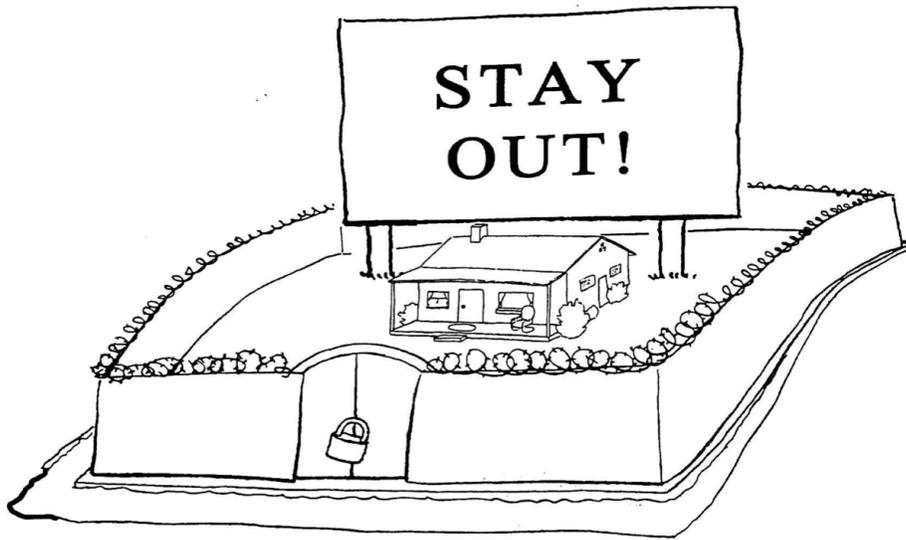




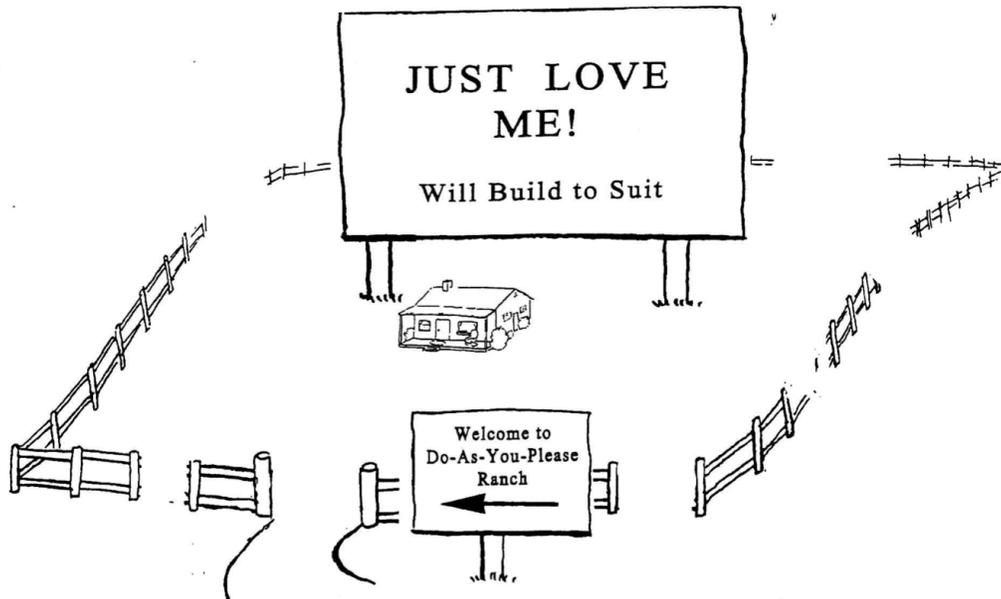
The Fix Me Ranch



The "Stay Out" Ranch



The "I Need You To Love Me" Ranch



Self-Definition

- The differentiated self is about journey, not destination.
- Leaders who say yes to this journey will stumble and even fail.
- However, saying yes to self-definition is an investment in healing and wholeness.
- It enables the leader to become a non-anxious presence for the people they serve.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

LECTURE SIX: THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF SELF-DEFINITION

1. Where did you sense the Holy Spirit engaging with you during the past presentation?
2. What was your most significant take away?
3. Review the building blocks of self-definition. Where do you need the Spirit's help to go deeper?
4. What are your non-negotiable values?
5. Why do you let people on your ranch who should not get past the gate?
6. What would you like to discuss in group from the material in the last presentation?